

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 12-14 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 4, 9, 11, and 15-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18-21 are withdrawn. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the claim amendments and remarks contained herein. No new matter has been added.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner stated that the drawings did not show every feature of the invention as specified in claims 7 and 14. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 14 to clarify the feature being claimed in claims 7 and 14. In view of the amendments to these claims, the drawing objection is rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10 and 12-14 were objected to because the recitation "a lifting shoe having a bottom surface coupled with the sliding tension bracket" in claims 1 and 8 is not sufficiently clear, particularly as to "coupled" refers. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 1 and 8 have been amended adding "and" before "coupled." Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, P1

Claims 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 14 have been amended to clarify that the tension crank may be replaced with a tension crank having a different size and as the size of the tension crank is changed, when the tension handle is moved, the tension applied to the band saw blade is changed. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Snodgrass (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2001/0054337). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to read, in relevant part, as follows: ". . . a tension crank having a first end and a second end, the first end coupled with the pin such that at least a portion of the pin extends axially outwardly from the tension crank"

Applicant submits that the band saw disclosed in Snodgrass fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a tension crank having a first end and a second end, the first end coupled with a pin such that at least a portion of the pin extends axially outwardly from the tension crank.

In the Office Action dated November 3, 2006, the Examiner identified the teeth on pinion gear 76 and pivot shaft 62 as purportedly being equivalent to the pin and tension crank of claims 1 and 8, respectively. As disclosed in Snodgrass, the teeth on pinion gear 76 do not extend axially outwardly from the pivot shaft 62. Rather, the pivot shaft 62 extends axially outwardly from the teeth on pinion gear 76 in both directions. As can be seen in Fig. 3 of Snodgrass, the pivot shaft 62 extends from a first end, which connects to handle attachment member 48, through the second shaft receiving orifice 36, at a second end. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of Snodgrass, the teeth on pinion gear 76 are located axially between these two ends of pivot shaft 62.

Thus, Snodgrass does not disclose, suggest, or teach that which is set forth in claims 1 and 8. Since claims 3 and 5-7 depend on claim 1 and claims 10 and 12-14 depend on claim 8, for the same reasons as applicable to claims 1 and 8, Snodgrass does not disclose, suggest, or teach that which is set forth in claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 12-14.

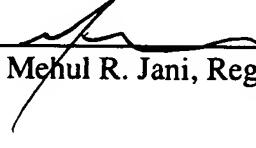
Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (410) 716-2886.

Respectfully submitted,

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